



Michigan Supreme Court

State Court Administrative Office
Michigan Hall of Justice
P.O. Box 30048
Lansing, Michigan 48909
Phone (517) 373-0128

Chad C. Schmucker
State Court Administrator

December 13, 2011

Senator Rick Jones
Chair, Judiciary Committee
915 Farnum Building
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7536

RE: 2011 Judicial Resources Recommendations

Dear Senator Jones:

We have been requested to clarify our position on the proposed judicial reductions. It is the position of the State Court Administrative Office that when a reduction is going to occur, the first judicial vacancy should be eliminated. We believe the first judicial vacancy should be eliminated for two reasons: First, the savings to the state and local funding unit should occur as soon as possible and should not be delayed. Second, the judicial work can easily be distributed within the remaining judges under a concurrent jurisdiction plan.

The only exception to this approach is within small circuits with only one circuit judge. Constitutionally, there must be one circuit judge in each circuit; therefore, in this situation, the circuit judge position cannot be eliminated, even if it is the first vacancy.

I hope this clarifies our position that may not have been fully explained in the Judicial Resources Recommendations report. If you have any further questions on the Judicial Resources Recommendations, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chad C. Schmucker", written over a horizontal line.

Chad C. Schmucker
State Court Administrator

cc: Senator Tonya Schuitmaker
Senator Tory Rocca
Senator Steven Bieda